THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of air services from Guwahati

1482. SHRI URKHAO GWARA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide air connectivity of any kind with Guwahati Airport from every Headquarters of Autonomous District Councils of Assam that has become most essential today;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines already operates to six airports in Assam *viz.* Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Jorhat, Lilabari, Silchar and Tezpur. Indian Airlines also connects Guwahati to Lilabari and Silchar. Besides, Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines in terms of which all scheduled airlines are required to deploy at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on trunk routes (i.e. Category I routes) on Category II routes, which includes the North-Eastern States. 10% of the capacity so deployed is to be deployed for connectivity within these regions. Subjects to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Commencement of air services from Pathankot

1483. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Pathankot Airport in Punjab for general public in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) a new Terminal Building for 300 passengers, apron link taxiway, car park for 200 cars and allied works at Pathankot have already been completed by Airports Authority of India.